

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Regional Centre for Training and Research in Municipal Administration was established with assistance from Govt. of India in 1968 in the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management at Calcutta. This Institute was intended to serve the Eastern Region. In 1982 Govt. entrusted the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) with a study to evaluate the performance of this regional Centre. In its report the NIUA found that the performance of the centre was not satisfactory. Inter-alia, the evaluation report revealed that the Centre had failed to conduct any course during the year 1981-82. Efforts made by the Ministry to revive the Centre were not successful. In view of this background it was decided to discontinue any further aid to the Institute.

Environmental Studies

4454. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sponsored or assisted any regional centre for environmental studies in any of the Eastern States; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has sponsored the Centre for Mining Environment, at Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. The National Wastelands Development Board under the National Social Forestry Project has assisted in setting up two regional centres, viz., one at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and the second at Jadavpur University, Calcutta. The Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India have set-up regional centres in the north eastern region for survey

and study of Flora and Fauna. The Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has set-up two Centres, one each at Gangtok, Sikkim and Mokokchung, Nagaland. The Ministry had also sponsored three research projects at the Regional Plant Resources Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Ecological Study by Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur

4455. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ecology study of Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur, Rajasthan has stated that the decision to disallow Buffaloes from the Park in 1982 has had adverse consequences in the ecology system:

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on each recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of the recommendations made in the Report on the Ecological Study of the Keoladeo National Park 1980-1990 by the Bombay Natural History Society is given in the statement below:

(c) These recommendations mainly concern the management of the Keoladeo National Park. The management and control of national parks are vested with the concerned State Government. The Government of India has

conveyed these recommendations to the Government of Rajasthan and their comments in this regard are awaited.

STATEMENT

Summary of Recommendations contained in the report "Keoladeo National Park Ecology Study (1988-1990)" by the Bombay Natural History Society (1990).

1. Water Management

(i) Water from the Chambal should be brought to the Park for use in periods of scarcity.

(ii) The time of release of water, the yearly variation in quantum of water released, water depth in blocks, sequence of flooding and duration of dry periods should be carefully controlled. Deepening of water-spread areas should be done.

2. Habitat Management

(i) *Removal of aquatic weeds:* Methods suggested for controlling the different weeds are as follows:—

(a) *Paspalum distichum*: The uncontrolled growth of this weed as a result of the removal of buffaloes from the Park is creating an ecocatastrophe. A strategy has to be worked out to get the buffaloes, the primary consumers, back into the system.

(b) *Cyperus alopecuroides*: This weed should be removed by unrooting at seedling stage wherever it grows thick.

(c) *Veriveria zizanioides* and *Desmostachya bipinnate*: These weeds should be removed by allowing villagers to harvest them.

(d) *Saline patches*: These patches should be reforested.

(e) *Control of Feral Cattle*: The calves should be trapped and

translocated by tranquillising. The bulls may be castrated. 'Biobullets' may also be tried.

3. Fish Supply

Additional areas for retaining breeding stocks of fish during summer should be created. Controlled harvesting of fish should be allowed in May-June.

4. Integrated Development Programme

An integrated development programme for the area should be launched. This should include supply of improved cookers, wind mills, health care, cottage industries, improved agricultural practices, etc. which are compatible with the management of the Park. Water supply from the Chambal should be made available to the local villages.

5. Development of Tourism

This should comprise inexpensive transportation from the main gate to the Keoladeo Temple, construction of watch-towers, interpretation centre and low budget board and lodging facilities.

Augmentation of Drug Testing Facilities

4456. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 100 per cent assistance for augmenting drug testing facilities and 50 per cent assistance for strengthening the enforcement wing is provided;

(b) if so, whether the Drug Central Administration has one Drug Testing Laboratory at the Directorate and one such Laboratory in the Regional at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;